



Mediation News

Maryland Commission on Human Relations Newsletter

SUMMER 2006

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Take Me Out to the Ballgame...

You may have noticed several articles in our recent newsletters about the **Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence (MPME)**. The MPME is designed to offer Maryland mediators, at all levels of experience, many valuable opportunities to improve their mediation skills, knowledge and understanding. The program also provides opportunities to network and contribute to improving Maryland's mediation community. The MPME aims to foster a continual strive towards excellence and to promote continuing self-reflection by Maryland mediators. *Membership is free and MCHR mediators are encouraged to signup!*

Online membership registration will be available starting September 12, 2006 but you can sign up sooner than that by attending any one of several Maryland minor league baseball games at a discounted price! Tickets are only \$10 per person and include parking, your ticket to the game, a 2-hour buffet and a chance to learn more about MPME and meet other mediators. Look for news of other registration events throughout the year. Contact cheryl.jamison@mdcourts.gov or 410-841-2260 for more info. Hope to see you there!

6pm - Friday, 8/25 **Delmarva Shorebirds**, Salisbury

6pm - Saturday, 8/26 **Bowie Baysox**, Bowie

5pm - Friday, 9/1 **Frederick Keys**, Frederick

6pm - Saturday, 9/2 **Aberdeen Ironbirds**, Aberdeen

! Check out the Calendar on the back of this page for an exciting line up of trainings being offered this Fall & Winter to all MCHR mediators. Contact Tara or Maria soon to sign up!

Volunteer Spotlight



GENELLE WATTS began her career in the banking industry as a customer service representative and within 9 years worked her way up to staff counsel. In 1990 she became assistant counsel at McCormick & Co. where she stayed for 13 years. Genelle is currently consulting independently in the Contracts Management Division at TD Ameritrade.

Over the past 2 years Genelle looked at several options to decide what direction she wanted to go in next. One of those options came when her sister, Bobette Watts, Mediation Program Assistant here at MCHR shared with Genelle that there was a mediation training coming up and she would be good at it as she is a good listener and believes in fair play. Genelle contacted Tara and went through the training in 2005. The mediation process allows her to use her life skills in a way that helps others. "Mediation allows me to use my legal expertise and sociology background to help people who are facing difficult and emotional situations because of a seemingly negative incident or atmosphere at the workplace. Mediation bridges the gap between the participants' understanding of their rights and connects them to what is rightfully theirs."

Genelle has found mediation to be very rewarding. "It is exhilarating and thought provoking. Communication is a lost art and mediation allows for the free flow of communication and the understanding of another person's feelings and values. I look forward to each session to see this amazing process at work and how the participants can come away with a feeling that they have at least been heard. This would not have been the case had they ended up in court. That is a very basic but powerful effect and it is very rewarding to witness this process."

In her spare time Genelle is enjoying renovating her condominium, volunteering with the Maryland SPCA and spending as much time as possible on her boat. *Thanks so much to Genelle for her hard work!*



MARIA'S MINUTE

Greetings Volunteers,

I hope everyone is staying COOL this summer!

Did you know that a good percentage of cases that don't resolve in mediation and then go to investigations often result later in settlements? Just because you don't see an agreement that day, does not mean the mediation was unsuccessful. The foundation that you lay in mediation is often beneficial to a later resolution agreement. Thanks for laying the foundation by mediating with MCHR!

Cheers! ~ Maria

Mediation News

SEPTEMBER

17-18

21 (9a – 4:30p)

OCTOBER

3 (9a – 1p)

25 - 28

NOVEMBER

15 (12:30p – 4p)

DECEMBER

1

14 (Noon – 3:30p)

Purpose Drives Practice: An International Conference on Transformative Mediation
St. Paul, MN ([http:// transformativemediation.org](http://transformativemediation.org) for more info)

MCHR Training: Mediation Skills Refresher Course

MCHR Legal Update Training: Sexual Orientation & Genetic Information Cases
(This training has been offered in the past and is being repeated)

Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR)'s Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA
(<http://acrnet.org/conferences/ac06/index.htm> for more info)

MCHR Training: Ethics & Confidentiality in Mediation

(Trainer ~ Roger Wolf, from C-DRUM, Univ of MD School of Law)

(A similar training has been offered in the past but this training will contain some new content)

Maryland Mediators Convention (contact MACRO at 410-841-2260 for details)

MCHR: Two Minds Can Be Better Than One ~ How to Get the Most out of Co-Mediation (Trainer ~ Toby Treem from C-DRUM, Univ. of MD School of Law)
(This training has been offered in the past and is being repeated)

All MCHR trainings are held at the Baltimore office unless otherwise noted.

To register for any MCHR Training contact Tara at 410-767-6459 or ttaylor@mail.mchr.state.md.us

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